Welfare Schemes for Destitute Senior Citizens in Assam

*1300. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes/projects, etc. launched/finished by Central Government during the preceding five years in Assam for the welfare of destitute senior citizens alongwith amounts sanctioned each year for each scheme;

(b) the achievement levels in each case; and

(c) the schemes contemplated for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The details of the on-going schemes/projects of the Central Government during the proceeding five years in Assam for the welfare of the destitute senior citizens alongwith amount sanctioned for each year for each scheme are given below:

(i) The Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for programmes related to the aged provides for Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations for establishing and maintaning Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units for Older Persons. Under the Scheme one Old Age Home was established in Assam in 1993-94 and one Day Care Centre was also established in the State in 1994-95. The Year-wise allocation of funds under the scheme in the State is given below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

1993-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98
2.11	2.37	2.79	4.00	3.39

(ii) The Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations for construction of Old Age Homes provides a one time construction assistance to eligible organisations for establishing an Old Age Home for at least 25 persons over 60 years of age preferably destitutes. Grants-in-Aid under the Scheme has been provided to one organisation in the State of Assam to the extent of Rs. 2.50 lakhs as first instalment for construction of an Old Age Home in the year 1997-98.

(iii) The National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for Old Age Pension to destitute older persons and the scheme is being implemented in all the Districts of Assam since 1995. The allocation, release, expenditure and number of beneficiaries reported under the scheme since 1995 are give below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Release	Reported by the State	
			Expen.	No. of Beneficiaries
95-96	366.55	195.83	83.55	35768
96-97	656.14	333.86	256.84	47026
97-98	656.14	333.25	248.34*	33435*

*Provisional

(c) Introduction of a new scheme for Older persons is not contemplated during the current year.